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DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER

Committee on Transportation
Public Hearing
February 23, 2009

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Testimony On
H.B. 6271, An Act Requiring A Review Of Traffic Patterns
At Exit 58 On Route 15

Senators DeFronzo, Boucher; Representatives Guerrero, Scribner; and members of the Transportation Committee:

I respectfully request your support of H.B. 6271, *An Act Requiring A Review Of Traffic Patterns At Exit 58 On Route 15*. This exit is located on the Merritt Parkway in the Town of Orange.

The Merritt Parkway, as we all know, was designed for far less traffic and much different motor vehicle and driving styles than it accommodates today. Many accidents and near-accidents have occurred, particularly on the westbound ramp of Exit 58, although sightline problems also exist on the eastbound entrance ramp as well. Additionally, acceleration lanes need to be added to the entrance lanes and speed limits and required vehicle sizes must be enforced, which they routinely are not.

The trees that were planted decades ago along the side of the Parkway are now very high and very dense, often making visibility on the entrance and exit ramps difficult, if not impossible. They must be trimmed and in some cases removed.

These dangerous situations have existed for many years and pose a very serious public safety hazard. This legislative proposal would require a comprehensive review and report by the Department of Transportation to the General Assembly. This review will fully address the traffic pattern and related safety concerns that the Town of Orange public officials and motorists who frequently travel on the Merritt Parkway in this area have expressed for some time.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill. I welcome any questions or concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

Themis Klarides
Deputy Republican Leader